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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **\*\* Media Advisory \*\***

### **Closing Arguments Set to Begin in Baptist Foundation Trial**

(Phoenix, Ariz. – June 16, 2006) Closing arguments in the criminal trial against two former executives with the Arizona Baptist Foundation are scheduled for June 19 and 20, starting at 8 a.m. each day. The Maricopa County Superior Court will provide a simulcast in the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors auditorium.

The trial against William Crotts, former BFA President, and Thomas Grabinski, former BFA Vice President/General Counsel, began in September 2005 following an investigation by the Attorney General's Office and the Arizona Corporation Commission. They are each charged with three counts of fraud, one count of racketeering and 23 counts of theft.

The Foundation collapsed and filed for bankruptcy in 1999. More than 11,000 investors lost over half a billion dollars in the collapse. The investors eventually recovered a portion of their funds from civil settlements with the lawyers and auditors of the Foundation.

The case is being tried before Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Kenneth Fields. The 10-month trial ranks as the longest case ever prosecuted by the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

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